

LONG ISLAND FORUM



SAYVILLE BRASS BAND OF 1884

Courtesy Suffolk County News

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**THE
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Published Monthly at
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Entered as second-class matter May 11, 1947, at the
 post office at Amityville, New York, under the Act of
 March 3, 1879.

PAUL BAILEY, Publisher-Editor
Contributing Editors
 Clarence A. Wood, LL.M., Ph.D.
 Malcolm M. Willey, Ph.D.
 John C. Huden, Ph.D.

Long Island Snakes
 Clarence Russell Comes

Fortunately we do not need a St. Patrick to drive the snakes from our green island. They are not so numerous. One warm spring day when calling on friends in Babylon, on emerging from the house there on the lawn in a large spot of sunlight was a bunch, bundle or ball (whatever you might call it) of young garter snakes all wound up together and looking like a miniature head of Medusa. On closer inspection these baby snakes unwound and untangled themselves most dexterously and slithered away in all directions. Each seemed to be about six inches in length. We let them go as they are harmless and the friend of man in that they destroy field mice and other vermin. Blacksnakes, too, are the farmer's friend. I believe the latter are not numerous on Long Island. Their habitat is where rocks and "stone wall fences" abound. I once killed a five foot blacksnake to show my prowess—if any—and still have a guilty conscience in the matter.

In front of my home a garter snake lay stretched straight out to his full length of perhaps sixteen inches. He appeared to have fallen asleep under the soporific influence of the sun's rays. I approached quietly, leaned over and gently stroked his back with my fingers. He did not care for this treatment, however gentle, and hurried on his way probably in a huff at being disturbed. It has been vigorously denied by those who have not seen such a phenomenon that a snake, when startled, will carry away its young in its mouth. At a snake show in New York City that the writer attended, a large placard denied in unequivocal terms that there had ever been such an occurrence. I did not start an argument or tear down the

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Looking Back at Sayville

A COPY of the Suffolk County News of June 28, 1898, shows the Sayville School, which was then 10 years old; the Methodist, Congregational, Episcopal, Catholic Churches. Little change has taken place in them except for the steeple on the Methodist Church, which was struck by lightning a few years ago and was never replaced.

It shows The Elmore Hotel, The Foster House, The Rogers House on Candee Avenue, The Sea Side—now the Lafayette, and the Grand Central Building, which stood at the junction of North and South Main Streets, back of Sparrow Park.

There are pictures of 15 businessmen. Among them you will notice two full beards and the other 13 had mustaches. Every picture suggests a story, but I will mention only two.

Francis Gerber, who first came to Sayville as a pack-peddler—that is, going from

A. C. Edwards

Editor's Note

The author, a prominent Sayville insurance broker, compiled this data for a talk at his local Rotary Club, August 9, 1951. Published in the Suffolk County News of Sayville at that time, it is with their permission and the author's that we use the story which describes so vividly the era of 1900 and thereabouts in a typical Long Island community.

All Illustrations by Courtesy of
The Suffolk County News

house to house with a pack on his back, opening it on the kitchen floor or some other available place, and displaying his merchandise to the housewife. He later came around with a horse-drawn wagon with a body such as was used by the old-time tin peddler, who came around to the homes for rags, etc., and paid the housewife in tinware.

Later Mr. Gerber established a store on the site of

the present Hill's Market, which, as stated in the article, became a five-story building. It was one of the largest general stores on the Island and carried every type of merchandise. It was open from seven in the morning until nine at night and on the grocery side many men congregated at night to discuss the topics of the day.

Capt. Jacob Ockers, the oyster king, had a wholesale oyster packing plant on the shore where La Salle Military Academy is now located, in Oakdale. He bought oysters by the bushel from various baymen who planted and harvested them from lots in the bay, owned or leased by them. Capt. Ockers did not keep books, but met the men from whom he had purchased oysters during the previous week, on the grocery side of Gerber's Store every Saturday night and paid them for the oysters and it was said that his memory was perfect. If a



Sayville's Delavan Summer Hotel, Since Burned Down

man tried to take advantage and collect for more than he had really delivered, he never was successful.

I will mention another man whose picture appears—that is Julius Hauser, who was the village baker, having come from Germany. He was a prominent Democrat and was elected Town Clerk and Supervisor of the Town of Islip many times. The story says that his name had been mentioned in connection with much higher offices. Whoever wrote the story did prophesy, for Hauser became Treasurer of the State of New York—and thereby hangs a tale.

In 1913, when the Democratic State Convention was in session at Syracuse and William Randolph Hearst was nominated for Governor, it came time to nominate a candidate for State Treasurer. It developed that the Republican nominee was a German Banker, and as the Democratic nomination was coming to the lower part of New York State, the powers in control asked Edwin Bailey Jr., of Patchogue, who was State Senator and a delegate to the State Convention, if he knew of a German Banker who would be a vote-getter and a good candidate. Bailey said "yes, Julius Hauser, of Suffolk County". Bailey was hard of hearing and thought he had been asked if he knew a German Baker instead of a German Banker. Hearst was defeated and Charles S. Whitman was elected Governor, but the rest of the Democratic Ticket, including Hauser, was elected.

In 1878 the Sayville Hook and Ladder Company was formed. The original By-Laws show 19 charter members. I knew all except two. It erected a truck house, now occupied as a dwelling on the west side of Railroad Avenue, just north of the new parking field. It sold bonds to its members. Fred Munkelwitz, who had a wheelwright shop on Railroad Avenue where Louis Munkelwitz's garage is located, built the first hand-drawn truck for the Fire Company. This hand-drawn truck proceeded to a fire, one of the firemen trailed be-

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Looking Back at Sayville

Continued from page 144

hind, beating a base drum to arouse the people, particularly at night. When the Great South Bay Water Company laid mains in the center of our community, fire hose was needed and this was the incentive in 1889 for forming the Sayville Hose Company, No. 1. Their original By-Laws show 11 charter members and I was acquainted with them all. They purchased a two-wheel hosecart with 500 feet of fire hose, thereby reducing the fire insurance rate. Joseph A. Nauert was the first foreman. He served one year and was succeeded by Dr. George A. Robinson, who served for many years and gave much of his time to the organization.

The only place of public assembly was Columbia Hall, which was on the second floor of the building still on the north side of South Main Street, opposite the Foster House. This hall seated perhaps 200 people and had very limited stage facilities.

Painless Parker of Brooklyn came occasionally and pulled teeth for the benefit of his audience. The Kickapoo Indian Medicine Show came every winter and usu-

ally had two Kickapoo Indians in full regalia, and a couple of comedians with banjos, songs and jokes. Then the doctor with the show gave an inspiring lecture on the virtues of the Kickapoo Indian Sagwah, which was a cure-all with plenty of alcohol as an ingredient—also their Hair Tonic, Corn Cure, and a Tape Worm Remedy. The doctor usually had tapeworms in alcohol recovered from users of his remedy. Then the company would pass through the audience selling Sagwah at one dollar a bottle, and his other remedies at a lesser cost.

After preliminary meetings held in my office, the final meeting and papers for the organization of the Cysterman's National Bank were signed on the old square piano in Columbia Hall.

At the beginning of its existence, the Sayville Hose Company was in debt for its hosecart and hose and the principal means of raising funds was a Firemen's Fair, held each summer on the lawn and first floor of Dr. Robinson's residence, which still stands just to the east of the Sayville Library on South Main Street. In addition to paying off its indebtedness, the Hose Company had a major project in mind which was to come to ma-

turity in the erection of the Opera House on Candee Avenue.

In 1887, one Margaret Fitzgerald, who operated a theatrical boarding house in New York City, purchased from Willett Green the property on the northeast corner of Handsome Avenue and Maple Street, most recently owned by the late Charles G. Raynor. The large dwelling on the premises was remodeled into a three-story summer boarding house called "Comedy Castle" and it was so occupied until it burned down several years later. Its guests included Pete Daily, Pete Randall, Lillian Russell and many other members of the Old Weber and Fields Companies; "Old Hoss" Hoey of Evans and Hoey, of "Parlor Match" fame; his brother "Young Mule" Hoey, who was well known in vaudeville as the Bearded Lady doing an act in female costume with a full grown beard—in later years you will remember him as Jimmy Hoey; also George W. Monroe of My Aunt Bridget fame, who later bought the dwelling now occupied by Mrs. Theodore Jedlicka on Green Avenue, and made it his summer home.

Monroe became a member of the Sayville Hose Company, and when not on the road with My Aunt



Sayville Railroad Station 50 Years Ago

Bridget and other companies, he appeared in vaudeville and the old Winter Garden Productions. He would generally refer to his being a fireman, belonging to the Sayville Hose Company, and describe his various activities as a fireman in a very humorous way—and no wonder—he weighed about 325 and was rather short. He was instrumental in persuading many prominent theatrical personages of the day to come to Sayville as summer residents and assist in the Firemen's Fairs every summer.

Having raised sufficient funds, the Hose Company purchased from Morris J. Terry a property with a small building thereon on the east side of Candee Avenue, just below Main Street, being just to the north of the present office of The Suffolk County News. Here it stored its hosecart. The Long Island Railroad donated an old locomotive tire which, when hung and hit, served as a fire alarm.

There was no suitable place of public assembly in those days, Columbia Hall not being large enough to meet the needs of the community and some of our theatrical residents were interested in having an opera house. Among them were George W. Monroe and Bessie Bonehill, who was an English Music Hall singer and impersonator. She spent the summer at Deer Hall Farm in Holbrook, which she owned.

In addition to funds raised at fairs on Dr. Robinson's lawn, vaudeville shows were given each summer season in the old Patchogue Lyceum on Lake Street, as that was the only available auditorium with a stage large enough for performances of this kind.

Later in 1900 plans were drawn by Isaac H. Green for the New Opera House, and in the spring of 1901 a contract was awarded at a cost of \$7,500. Bonds were sold among friends of the project for \$8,000. Robert Nunns was the contractor and Henry Frank Rogers was the foreman on the job. It is interesting to note that even in those early days labor organizations had some strength, for in June, 1901, seven carpenters went on strike because one carpenter Chapman Rhodes by name, was not a member of the carpenters' union.

On August 7th, 1901, the opening performance in the Sayville Opera House was presented. This was a benefit performance given by the many theatrical friends of the Opera House project.

The Suffolk County News of August ninth, 1901 carried a story of the building and the opening performance, stating that the performance was under the direction of Frank L. Davis, who had been playing for two years with David Belasco's Zaza Company. He was accompanied in an amusing sketch by his wife, Marie Dudley Davis. Shortly after this Mr. and Mrs.

Davis erected the Davis Inn, on lower Candee Avenue and occupied it as a summer boarding house for many years—it is now known as "The Elms".

Also on the opening bill were Amy Forslund otherwise known as Amy Foster, contralto, who had just completed a season with a New York production; Charles Bloomer, as Sarah Heartburn, presented a comedy act; Seeley and West, musical comedians—Bill Seeley in black face, gave their hilarious act. Seeley was Bessie Bonehill's husband, and Jack West, her son. They had recently returned from a tour in Australia.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Ryan, known on the stage as Ryan and Richfield, gave their act "Meg Haggerty's Father". They resided on Colton Avenue. Fred Stone of Montgomery and Stone, who later became famous in "The Wizard of Oz", did his acrobatic dance. George Fuller Golden, president of the White Rats of America, which was to vaudeville what Equity is to the Legitimate stage today, gave his original monologue, which The News said was one of the brightest and wittiest on the stage at that time. John Kernell, the Irish Alderman, appeared. He lived at St. James in the summer. George W. Monroe, who The News called "Our own 'Aunt Bridget'" appeared as the jolly rotund Irishwoman.

Bessie Bonehill, who was as proud of Sayville as Sayville was of her, introduced some new songs from England and the Continent, having recently returned from a tour abroad. She made a big hit by closing her act in the uniform of the Sayville Hose Company (old style red shirt and black trousers), as she had been an honorary member for some time. John LeClair, one of the most skillful jugglers in the business, put on his act. He had

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Long Islanders at Pompey, N.Y.

ON a hilltop in Central New York is the tattered remnant of a pioneer village which descendants of early Long Islanders helped to establish as an outpost of civilization shortly after the Revolution.

It is fourteen miles south of Syracuse in Onondaga County. Settled when that city was still a swamp, the eminence was first dubbed Butlers Hill because Judge Ebenezer Butler, a native of Harwinton, Connecticut, became its first resident in April 1792. In 1811 when the locality first had a post office Butlers Hill became Pompey Hill, officially Pompey for short after Pompey the Great, rival of Julius Caesar.

Prior to eighty years ago, Pompey had furnished five mayors, two governors, three supreme court justices, thirteen members of the New York Legislature, six congressmen, one United States

Dr. Clarence Ashton Wood

senator (later another), a member of the Joint High Commission of 1871, and a major-general in the Civil War. At one time all four members of the State Legislature from Onondaga County, as well as the congressman were natives of the town of Pompey.

Pompey Hill became a Mecca for lawyers long before Syracuse had a court house or a law school. One Dunham, a mere pettyfogger, was first there. In 1800 came Keedar, a German. From 1806 to his death Daniel Wood maintained a law office on the hill. With him came Samuel Baldwin. Victory Birdseye was a partner with Wood. Daniel Gott came to the village as a teacher and studied Blackstone with Wood & Birdseye. Squire Birdseye became a state senator. In those days a Council

of Appointment of which the Governor was a member had the naming of a great portion of the civil, military and judicial officers of the State.

Two brothers descended from Southold's Rev. John Youngs and John Ledyard, the explorer, were natives of Pompey. One was known throughout his life as "Great Pomp" and his brother as "Little Pomp." Great Pomp was Governor of New York before and during the Civil War. He was Horatio Seymour.

Their sister Julia Seymour became the wife of Senator Roscoe Conkling, son of Judge Alfred Conkling who was born at Amagansett, L. I., Oct. 12, 1789. These Conklings were descendants of Ananias Conkling, brother of Captain John Conkling who settled in Southold town.

Alfred Conkling's son Ros-

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Sayville Opera House About 1900

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Letters From Our Readers

Continued from Page 142

poster and stamp on it. What was the use? "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise."

When a youth I saw a garter-snake in the sand by a roadside and as I neared it perhaps a dozen baby snakes ran into its opened mouth and the mother turned and went into the grass. There was nothing to obstruct my view and I could not have been mistaken. Any member of an asp, cobra or viper club who thinks he knows his stuff may have my affidavit.

My brother once saw a snake with a sizeable lump in its middle. The creature appeared to be in a lethargy and no wonder. He killed the snake, slit it open carefully and, lo and behold, out hopped an undigested toad as good as ever. This event was witnessed by other members of the family.

Do I like snakes? Yes, some kinds—the harmless varieties only. I have the skin of a six foot diamond-back on the wall of my study but he was a Californian—not a Leng Islander, thank goodness.

* * *

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HEMPSTEAD

Construction Before 1700

I HAVE just found new fields to explore and pick up new bits of early Long Island history; namely, one of the great quarto volumes of the Documentary Colonial History of the State of New York. Here I read of what a job it was to get materials to build a house in those early days.

The timber which Jan Teunessen was to cut and bring to the ferry, was for a house, 40 ft. long, for Sargent Douman. Here is a list of the timber required: 7 beams, 4 posts to each beam, cross timbers 22 ft. long extending 4 feet through, 4 window frames, three door frames, one little window in the garret. This was to be carried to the ferry, and from there

Kate Wheeler Strong

Douman had to haul it to the job at his own expence. (I forgot to mention that all shingles were to be split.) Jan was to do the work on the house, but Douman was to furnish the nails. The agreement was made Nov. 1646 and the price to be paid for the work was 65 guilders.

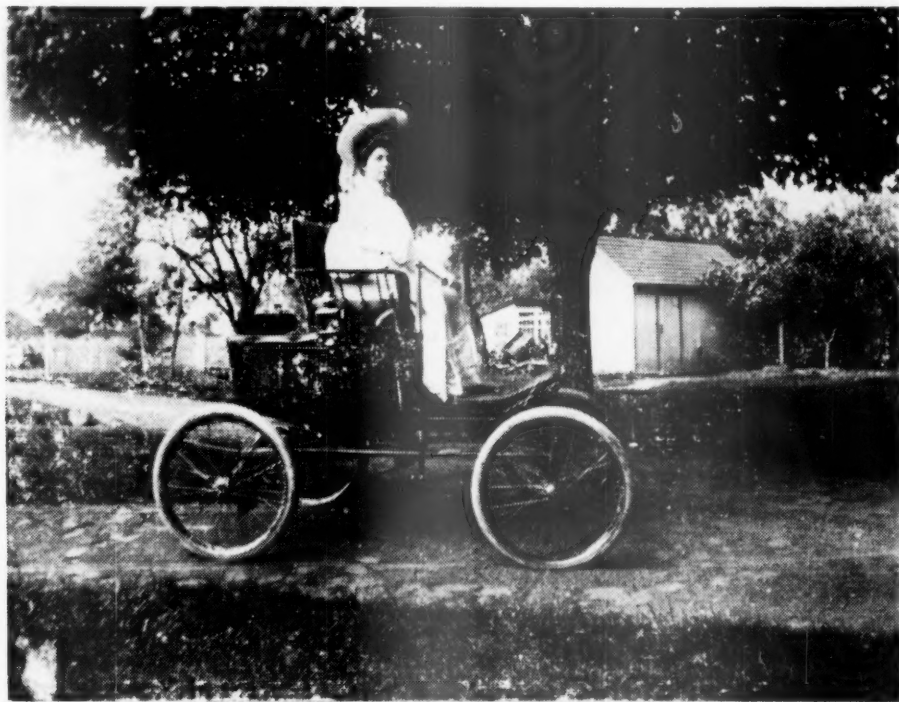
In December 1659 the people of Midwout, Long Island had been building a church; it was nearly finished, but the sides being of boards, not shingles, they felt it needed a coat of paint to make it last longer. So they appealed to the Director-General and Gentlemen of the Council of New Netherlands to get them "col-

or and oil which only could be fetched from the Fatherland."

Setauket (Seatacocc they spelt it then) was not the peaceful place in the early days that one might imagine. In 1666 the constable there was assaulted by men "ill effected" who also spoke words against His Majesty's authority. Later William Wells, High Sheriff, was asked by Governor Richard Nicolls to meet with him and Mr. Wood at Seatacocc to look into the matter. What their findings were does not appear.

In 1666 it was ordered that Richard Smith of Nasaquanke should pay his fair share toward the salary of a minister at Seatacocc. The latter place

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Sayville Photo of 1909. Lady Unknown.

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Looking Back at Sayville

Continued from page 146

Just returned from England. Al Laurence, who lived on what we called the North Road (now the Montauk Highway) in the old Platt Swezey place, closed the show with his prismatic water fountain, illuminated with electric lights. Another like performance was given in August, 1902.

Coming down on the Long Island Railroad for one of these shows, Ben Jerome, the musical director, asked one of the vocalists what he was going to sing. He replied that he didn't know, but probably would 'sing a little tenor, sing a little baritone and sing a little bass.' From that remark a song was written and published in New York. One Sunday evening a few months ago, Tallulah Bankhead, in her radio program, sang the chorus from the song—"I'll Sing a Little Tenor, Sing a Little Baritone, and Also Sing a Little Bass".

In the early part of September 1901, I was in Buffalo attending the Pan - American Exposition. While waiting in line to go into the Temple of Music, where a reception was being held for President McKinley, I heard the two shots fired from a gun which was concealed in a handkerchief in the hand of the assassin, Leon Czolozs. I saw the President taken in an ambulance to the residence of John G. Milburn, on Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, where he died shortly thereafter. On my return home a memorial service was held for President McKinley, which was the first use of the Sayville Opera House as a place of public assembly. Like services were held all over the country.

The Sayville Hose Company was at this time composed of young men who usually competed in the running races of the Suffolk County Volunteer Firemen's tournaments. William H. Harris was then proprietor of the Foster House, and was a member of the Hose Company. Harris was instrumental in having a light, wire-wheel racing hosecart constructed for the Hose Company, for usually the old, heavy, wooden-wheel type was used by the contestants in the races. They won races, but were not satisfied and a scheme was concocted.

They entered the races of the tournament at Patchogue, giving the customary list of members as contestants in the races. In each running race, with the light cart, Sayville came down the track like a shot out of a cannon and won every race. This was all very well until someone discovered that the runners were all prize-winning sprinters around New York City. Harris

Continued on next page

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Looking Back at Sayville

Continued From Page 150

was a member of the New York Athletic Club and had brought them all down to Sayville the day before, Sayville won the races but was disqualified.

As a former summer visitor, Harris caught on the old Sayville baseball team, which was famous as Suffolk County champions. A picture of the old team shows Charles Green, Joseph A. Nauert, Harry W. Shattuck, Charles Lane, Henry Noe, H. Treadwell Rogers, the Umpire, Louis Lafferrandre and Harry Hildebrandt. Samuel Arthur is missing. The ball field was opposite my grandfather's home, which is now the Sayville Historical Society. Harry Hildebrandt was always interested in baseball. There is a picture of his barber shop as it was about 1900. There were no electricity or automobiles in those days for you will notice the kerosene oil streetlight and the railing at the side of the street where the horses were tied and how the horses had gnawed the railing. It stood about where Gertrude Burns' store is now located.

When the Wood Building was erected at the corner of Main Street and Candee Avenue, Hildebrandt's Barber Shop was moved around the corner to a location on Candee Avenue and Dick Fendall established his carriage and later automobile painting shop therein. After Dick moved to his new building, John J. Mead established his plumbing supply business in this building. "Hilde" had the east store in the Wood Building but shortly afterwards moved to a location next to my office where he remained until his death.

Next to Hildebrandt's shop on the corner of Candee Avenue was an old frame dwelling converted into a confectionery and cigar store, which, at one time, was operated by Roger Lafferrandre's father, later by "Shine" Newins. When the Wood Building was erected, the old building was moved to the east side of Railroad Avenue about where Kenyon's Appliance Store is located and Max Tennenberg established the first steam laundry in our vicinity in this old building. When that site was used for another new building, the old building was purchased by Patrick Griffin and moved to Hanson Place. It later burned.

The Opera House became popular at once as it filled a great need in the community. Road shows came regularly. Among them was DeRue Brothers Minstrel Show, who always put on a colorful street parade at noon and in the evening

Continued on next page

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Looking Back at Sayville

Continued from page 151

sold out the house, plus standing room. Among them were the Cecil Magnus Stock Company and the Corse Payton Stock Company. Corse Payton advertised himself as the World's Best BAD Actor. Later Al Trahern came with his Stock Company and his star, Jessie Mae Hall. Perhaps some of you will remember other members of his company such as Frank Daddy Base, DeForest F. Dawley, Evelyn Foster, Doc Travers, and old Bill Jackson with his base viol. They came every week until motion pictures killed such companies. The following are some of the shows presented in the Opera House at various times: The Missouri Girl; Zeke, The Country Boy; Edward Waldman, The County Sheriff, A Girl Of The Mountains, The Wolf, Quo Vadis, The Town Marshal, Joshua Simkins, Paid in Full, Billy the Kid, King of Tramps.

George W. Monroe starred for many years throughout the country in a show called "My Aunt Bridget" and later in a sequel, "Aunt Bridget's Baby". He also starred as Fluffy Ruffles in a show called "The Top of the World", then "Widow Dooley's Dream" and others.

Later James P. Colton, the first resident of Colton Avenue, and for whom the avenue was named, who was by profession a theatrical producer and manager, organized a road company with Monroe as star, called "Mrs. B. O'Shaunessy, Wash Lady." The company of about 30 used the Opera House for its rehearsals and opening performance. A New York Company organized, rehearsed and opened a show called "Hell Bent for Heaven" which had a New York run. Other companies utilized the old Opera House for new shows.

The Opera House was used over the years for school commencements, basketball games by the high school and town teams, church suppers, firemen's suppers, dances, dancing schools, political meetings, chicken shows and all other community purposes. You will remember Peyton Vann's cakewalks and his popular minstrel shows. For many years, every Thanksgiving Eve, the building was crowded with a Masquerade Ball given by the Sayville Deutschen Kranken Unterstützungs Vereins, Nummer Eins.

It was never run for profit and in 1921 the Hose Company became tired of operating the building, generally at a loss, and sold it to Court Bayside, Foresters of America, who continued to use it for

Concluded on next page

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Looking Back at Sayville

Continued From Page 152

community purposes and their Lodge Room. The Foresters had some difficulty in making it a profitable venture and sold it to Joseph B. Levy who converted it into a motion picture theatre. He apparently was doing well when other interests were said to have paid him a considerable sum to discontinue showing pictures and to convert it into stores and apartments. It was so occupied up to the time it was converted into the present bowling alleys.

Construction Before 1760


Continued from page 149

had a fort in 1676, and orders came to the Justice of the Peace, Constables and Overseers to have all brush cut within 80 poles of the fort. I suppose this was because of the danger of an enemy coming up unseen. There seems to have been some worry about enemy ships. Who the enemy was is not stated.

Though many persons traveled by water, the need for a new road through the center of the Island was soon felt. In a letter to Richard Woodhull, Justice of the Peace at Seatacott, from Governor Andros, he is required to see that the new way ordered by Gov-

ernor Nicolls, from Huntington to Southampton and Southold, be marked and cleared of brush. Also, that Mr. Smith of Neaquake be told to mend the road at Nesaquake River. All this was in order to make said designed way good and convenient for travelers to and from the east end.

In 1677 Richard Woodhull and others were granted the right to fish from West Meadows to Old Mans (Crystal Brook) and in certain places on the south side to catch bass and perch. They were also empowered to build small docks and fish-houses.



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L. Islanders at Pompey

Continued from page 147

coe was born at Albany Oct. 30, 1829. Having served as Representative, in 1867 he was elected to the United States Senate and was re-elected in 1873. He died in New York City April 12, 1888 as the result of exposure during the blizzard of the previous month.

Elizabeth Conkling of East Hampton (birth in 1752) was an aunt of Judge Alfred Conkling, being a daughter of Lin-eas Conkling. She and her husband Edward Wicks, also born at East Hampton, 1752,



Iceberg Off Sayville About 1900

located at Pompey in 1816. She died there 1826.

Elias Conkling from Long Island was also one of the pioneer settlers of Pompey in 1797. He was a farmer and carpenter. He built the first local saw and grist mill, also the first two churches, Congregational (later Presbyterian) and Baptist. He married Rachel Haight and they had five children. She died Aug. 1840, he in April 1854.

Nathaniel Baker, descendant of Thomas Baker, a very early settler at East Hampton and one of its first justices, removed from there to Balston, Saratoga County, and in 1806 to Pompey. His wife was Lydia Talmage, daughter of David Talmage, one of the deacons of Rev. Samuel Buell's church at East Hampton.

Their son, Samuel Baker, born at East Hampton Oct. 2, 1793, accompanied them to Pompey. Pompey Academy not being ready he attended the academy at Clinton near Utica, which became Hamilton College. He married first Sept. 21, 1819 Philena Hascall of Pawtucket, Vt. She died Aug. 17, 1842. He married second Eunice B. Birdseye of Cornwall, Connecticut. He kept a store at Pompey and was a deacon of the Presbyterian Church.

Punderson Avery, born at Groton, Connecticut May 21,

1765 was related to Humphrey Avery who manipulated the land lottery associated with the beginning of Patchogue. Punderson located on a farm at Pompey in 1796. He was a wheelwright and mechanic. He had an uncle Humphrey Avery born at Preston, New London County, July 4, 1699, who married Jerusha Morgan Feb. 5, 1724. He also had a brother Humphrey. They were all descendants of Christopher Avery, a weaver who came from England about 1640.

Punderson Avery was captain of the Pompey militia. The church, school and public library always found him an ardent supporter. He reared a family of twelve and died Sept. 10, 1840. Nine of the Avery family fell at the massacre of Fort Griswold, near New London, Sept. 6, 1781 when Col. William Ledyard, uncle of John Ledyard, the famous traveler of Southold parentage, was killed.

A maternal grandmother of Great Pomp (Horatio Seymour), native of Pompey, was a great-niece of Col. William Ledyard. She was the wife of Col. Jonathan Forman who had located at Cazenovia, then a frontier settlement in Madison County a few miles east of Pompey Hill, having come from Mormouth, N. J.

Their daughter in 1807 be-

came the wife of Henry Seymour who located at Pompey where he erected a mill and conducted a store. They became the parents of Great Pomp, Little Pomp and Julia who married Senator Roscoe Conkling, son of Judge Alfred Conkling of East Hampton.

Henry Seymour was born at Litchfield, Connecticut, in 1781, the son of Moses Seymour, a major in the Revolution. He was elected to the State Senate from the Western District of New York 1816-19 and again in 1822. He was a member of the Council of Appointment in 1818.

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Back to Sunken Forest

THE Long Island Horticultural Society made a pilgrimage to Sunken Forest on Fire Island Beach one Saturday in early May. The shadow blossoms were on the way out, the oaks had put on soft downy leaves, and the ferns still uncoiled.

I never visit the 'forest' without having something there impress me more than it ever did before. This time I had as a guest an active, inquiring mind in the person of Charles R. Lounsbery, secretary of the St. Albans Men's Garden Club. He is the prodigal, questing, quiet type who, if a "find" is to be made, will be the one to make it. He did not let me down!

We had permission to dock the ferry on the inside of the Point o' Woods pier. Charlie questioned the use of that name for the community until, in ambling around the place, it became perfectly apparent that the westerly tip of the woods was right there — the barrier beach woodland runs out, ends; it is the point of the woods — Point o' Woods.

I never hope to forget the vast stretches of bearberry which cover the sand east of Point o' Woods. Some mats appeared to extend from one pole to the next of the Coast Guard communications. The 'pilgrims' sat down to lunch on a dune which was completely covered with bearberry. A few rosettes of thorny beach thistles alone managed to press through the tough, thick berry covering.

The bearberry stems cross and crisscross so densely that they soon create a cushioning mat. It is a wonderful soil binder as the winds never blow away the sand beneath — the covering is too thick to permit the winds to enter and, in addition the leaves are present all the year round. In the fall and winter the leaves turn from

Julian Denton Smith
Secretary Nassau County Historical Society

green to purples and bronze, and at times I think I have seen them red.

Most of the sixty-seven 'pilgrims' remained pretty close to the well-worn paths through Sunken Forest, but Charlie and I struck off widely on our own. After all, that is the best way to really see the place, providing you do not try to get lost.

We found trails through the 'forest' which had been made long ago and since forgotten. We followed a sketchy, vague, new trail across to the bay side. It lost itself in a cran-

berry bog that I had never stepped into before.

Birds called all around us but we saw very few. It seemed that the sight of two men invading the peaceful, silent home land caused the birds to seek cover. Catbirds seemed everywhere and they did not appear particularly afraid of us.

The thick, corky bark of the sassafras trees had us fooled until we could find some of the fresh green stems just below a few identifying buds. The blackish, slightly shiny and slick bark of some large shadow bush clumps looked for all the world like the long body of a 'tamed' boaconstrictor I had known in Guatemala. The like-

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ness seemed so complete that I half expected to see the tree-trunk slither off and away. Someone said that is what the bar up at Cherry Grove will do to a fellow!

I had read about the holly in the 'forest' growing to within a few feet of the water on the bay side. I have always doubted that statement until on this pilgrimage I came upon a holly tree growing with its feet actually in the bay! The tree is at the edge of the cranberry bog mentioned earlier.

In a distance of a few feet at Sunken Forest anyone is able to find all three styles of the common poison ivy. It is not often a plant is sufficiently versatile to appear in three habits of growth. This ability of the poison ivy permits it to make itself at home almost anywhere. It has remarkable adaptability for it grows as a low plant, a woody shrub, and a vine.

The foliage is the same in all three types of growth — similar in form, contour and colors. It never disguises itself; it is always very definitely poison ivy. One type is just as poisonous as another and all should be widely shunned.

The low-growing sort is found extensively on the back beach dunes and in the interdunal area — that flat space between the beach dunes and the old dunes. This same type ivy appears on Jones Beach with an especially dangerous stand at the curve in the boardwalk immediately south-west of the West Bathhouse.

At Sunken Forest the woody shrub style of poison ivy is usually mixed up with bayberry, in fact the two have similar form and habit of growth. Occasionally the ivy appears in thickets with no other vegetation, a great mass of poison ivy.

As a vine the ivy seems capable of climbing like a grape vine or as the Virginia creeper. It goes up into the tops of both deciduous and evergreen trees. The 'forest' will soon be clear of cedars due to the

vine style of poison ivy running to the tops of the cedars and there branching as a woody shrub to produce a dense shade sealing off the sunlight without which the cedars can not exist. No poisonous action arises in the contact between ivy and cedar, it is a case of the one shading out the other.

I do not know that anyone has ever declared that the holly trees in Sunken Forest are a definite, exact number of years old. It seems to me these trees have always been spoken of as "about" or "over" one hundred years old. Some unknown individual, however, can say exactly how long one holly tree had grown!

Along the faint pathway through the 'forest', the pathway which lost itself in the cranberries, we found an uprooted holly tree. It had been dead several years. The strange thing about it was a chunk had been carefully sawed out about fifteen inches above the point where the roots branched off. The chunk had not been carried away nor disposed of, but remained with the tree.

In a careful examination of the sawed surfaces of the chunk and of the tree trunk, we found twelve consecutive annual rings still visible, the others having disappeared in the weathering and decay of the wood. By accepting the twelve rings as representative of the tree's growth and gauging how many times the width of the twelve rings would fit into the radius of the tree, we estimated the tree was more than one hundred years old at the date of its uprooting.

Whoever sawed out the chunk of the holly tree and left all parts on the spot must have labored simply to count the annual rings — it does not make sense any other way. The discovery of the old holly tree with its cross sections constituted the "find" of the pilgrimage.

Surely no one can visit

Sunken Forest in early May without bringing home a mental picture of the beach plums in flower. It is impossible to look in any direction without seeing masses of white beach plums. An exception should be made to the previous sentence for I saw two or three beach plum bushes which carried pinkish flowers. These were really much more pink than white. I did not see any insects at work gathering pollen from the flowers. It must be that beach plums rely to a large extent on wind-borne pollen to accomplish fertilization.

This pilgrimage to Sunken Forest is the seventh one to be conducted by the Long Island Horticultural Society. All have been very popular, those in the fall of the year just as much so as those in the spring. Non-members may arrange to attend a pilgrimage by addressing requests to the office of the society at the Long Island Agricultural and Technical Institute, Farmingdale.

I can't miss the Forum. Louis T. Vail, White Plains.

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L. Islanders at Pompey

Continued From Page 154

The Seymours moved to Utica in 1819. That year Henry was appointed a commissioner with De Witt Clinton and others who had charge of building the Erie and Champlain canals. He served in that capacity until 1833 and died in 1837.

His son Horatio (Great Pomp) was born at Pompey 1811. There he and his brother (Little Pomp) spent their early life. Horatio was the eldest of six children. He attended Pompey Academy and later studied law at Utica. In 1841 he was elected to the State Assembly, Governor in 1853-55, again elected Governor in 1862, defeated for that office in 1864 by Reuben E. Fenton and defeated in 1868 for President by Gen. Grant.

The academy at Pompey was incorporated by the Regents during the regime of Ezra L'Hommedieu of Southold. The minutes of the State Regents, then composed of John Jay, Judge Benson, Judge Kent, Gen. Schuyler, Mr. Russell and Senator L'Hommedieu, show that the matter was referred to the Senator.

As in the case of Clinton Academy at East Hampton, which was built in 1784 but not chartered until 1787, Pompey Academy, though erected about 1805 was not incorporated until 1811. On Sept. 27th of the latter year Senator L'Hommedieu died at Southold.

The first building of Pom-

pey Academy was a frame structure cut and hewed from the surrounding forests. In 1835 a building of native limestone was opened. The next year was completed the Preceptor's House, which was the residence of this writer while he was principal of the academy fifty-five years ago.

The roster of celebrities who attended the present existing academy building includes among others Grace Greenwood, United States Senator Frank Hiscock and Jennie Jerome, who became Lady Randolph Churchill, mother of Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of England.

Smart Dresses for Pennies!

This is the story of a smart young girl, Pauline Sadowski, who has found a way to conquer the high cost of clothing. Who ever heard of a \$2 dress today, chic and cool and suitable to wear with pride for a score of summertime occasions? Pauline has—she is wearing it in the picture (at top).

Miss Sadowski is a student at Traphagen School of Fashion, where she is majoring in Costume Design and Clothing Construction. When she made her sloper (basic pattern to those not in the business), she decided to use it for a dress—the simple kind with slightly flared skirt and plain sleeveless bodice. She made it of a remnant of charcoal gray denim, created a belt of the fabric covered with white rick-rack braid, and for the touch that will make her a designer with originality when she has finished school, Pauline swung from the belt a silver emblem salvaged from an old, discarded handbag. Total cost of the dress, including everything,



\$2.10, and what is more, it won her a prize in the school's fashion show given at the Museum of the City of New York.

The other dress, costing approximately the same amount, is Pauline's "stripe problem," made in class at Traphagen, where students learn to handle every kind of fabric motif. She used her stripes handsomely in this navy and white denim sports dress, sleeveless and with white bindings as trim.

Both are wardrobe pickers-up for end of summer that will help a girl happily through August at home or on vacation, won't even dent the budget, and can be made in jigtime. With such ingenuity the cost of Pauline's tuition can be absorbed while she is preparing for a remunerative career.

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New York Considered and Improved, 1695, published 1903 from the original MS in the British Museum. No. 199 of 400 printed copies.

The American Indian, 485 pages, by A. Hyatt Verrill, 1927.

Some Indians Events of New England, two volumes, 1934 and 1941, by Allan Forbes.

The Iroquois, A Study in Cultural Evolution, by Frank Gouldsmith Speck. Bulletin 23 of the Cranbrook Institute of Science, 1945.

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Smith Wills of New York and Long Island, 1664-1794, with genealogical and historical notes. 1898. William S. Pelletreau, editor.

The Social History of Flatbush, and Manners and Customs of the Dutch Settlers in Kings County. Gertrude Lefferts Vanderhilt. 1899-1882. 351p.

Stony Brook Secrets. Edward A. Lapham. 1922. 146p.

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First Train to Greenport, 1844, by Dr. Clarence A. Wood, for more than 40 years research attorney for the Court of Appeals, at Albany.

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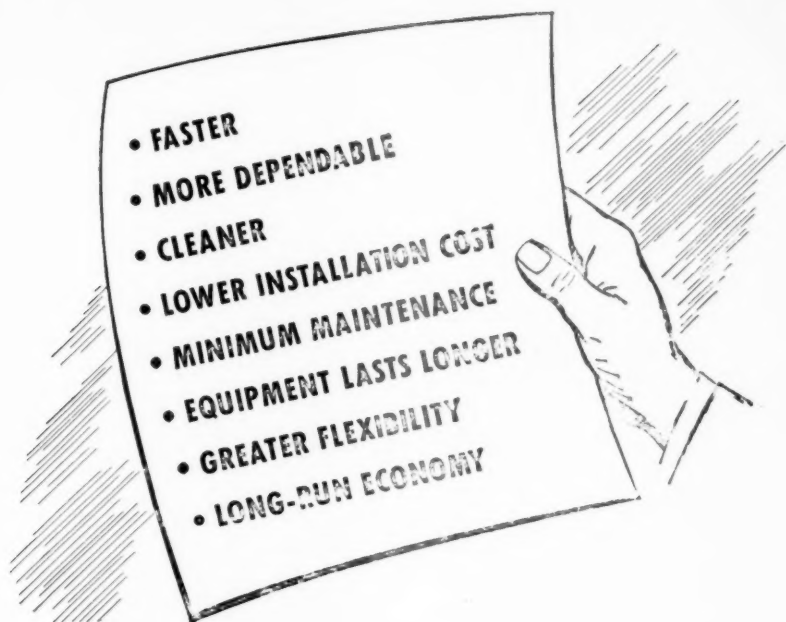
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